

REMARKS

By this reply, claim 1 has been added. Claims 1, 2, 5-28, 31 and 32 pending in the application. The claim amendment adds no new matter. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Restriction Requirement

As indicated at paragraph (2) of the Office Action, once claim 1 is found to be allowable, withdrawn claims 11- 31 depending from claim 1 will be rejoined and examined.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 32 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-39 of co-pending U.S. Application No. 11/171,193.

A Terminal Disclaimer with respect to commonly-owned U.S. Application No. 11/171,193 is submitted herewith to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the base steel member comprises a surface hardened zone extending inwardly from the outer toothed profile surface, and wherein the surface hardened zone is formed by induction hardening

the coated base steel member. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, Applicants' undersigned representative can be reached at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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